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PRESS STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE ON HER APPOINTMENT TO SERVE AS FEDERAL CHAIR OF THE FEDERALSTATE JOINT BOARDS ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE AND SEPARATIONS

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission voted to appoint Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate to both serve on and act as Federal Chair of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service as well as Federal Chair of the Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations.

Regarding these appointments, Commissioner Tate said, "I am deeply honored that Chairman Martin and Commissioners Copps and Adelstein have appointed me to serve as the Federal Chair on the Joints Boards for Universal Service and Jurisdictional Separations. In these roles, I will reach out to states and consumer advocates to preserve and advance the principles set forth by Congress. Specifically, I will continue the efforts I began as a state official to ensure that all consumers – especially those in rural and high-cost areas – are able to obtain services at reasonable rates. Paramount is my commitment to good stewardship and encouraging the deployment of new choices for Americans in underserved areas of our country. As I did in Tennessee, I will continue to stress a pragmatic approach to federalism, build a consensus between multiple jurisdictions and stakeholders, encourage investment, and, above all else, champion the needs of consumers. I look forward to building a lasting cooperation with state regulators as we move forward."